

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 10, and 11 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 5-7, 9, and 12-16 have been canceled without prejudice to expedite allowance of the pending claims. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance of claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 10, and 11. In light of the amendment and remarks set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Claims 7 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 11243561 ("the '561 patent"). The cancellation of claims 7 and 14 renders this rejection moot.

Claim 16, stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '561 patent. The cancellation of claim 16 renders this rejection moot.

Applicant has responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Dated: October 26, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By _____
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